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General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 13 June 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith the Baabda Declaration issued by the National Committee of Dialogue at Baabda Palace on 11 June 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

12-38540 (E) 260612 270612

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Annex to the identical letters dated 13 June 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Baabda Declaration issued by the National Dialogue Committee on 11 June 2012

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Lebanon, Michel Sleiman, the National Dialogue Committee met on Monday, 11 June 2012, at the residence of the President of the Republic in Baabda. The meeting was chaired by the President and attended by the dialogue teams. Mr. Saad Hariri and Mr. Samir Geagea were absent. The minister Muhammad al-Safadi was absent owing to illness.

A minute's silence was held in honour of the late Ghassan Tueni, a former member of the Committee. The President of the Republic then opened the session, highlighting the pressing circumstances that had led him to invite the Committee to resume its work. Tragic events had unfolded, particularly in the north of the country, bringing negative economic and social repercussions at a time when Lebanon was preparing for the summer holiday season and the visit of His Holiness the Pope in September 2012. The Lebanese people must safeguard their country as a symbol of freedom, coexistence and dialogue.

The President recalled the positive aspects of the Committee's work in the previous sessions, particularly in accompanying the achievements of the previous four years in a calm and democratic environment. He then outlined the considerations that had led it to suspend its work, stressing that the Committee must overcome the obstacles to the implementation of its previous resolutions and work in a stable and systematic manner in order fully to realize its objectives for the nation.

In that context, he drew attention to recent events and domestic, regional and international developments that had taken place since the suspension of the Committee's work.

A general discussion ensued concerning the agenda items proposed by the President. The Committee heard the views and positions of the dialogue teams regarding various urgent topics requiring immediate attention and response.

The discussions resulted in consensus on the following points and decisions:

1. The path of dialogue should be adopted, and security, political and media issues should be approached in a spirit of serenity. The focus should be on commonalities and consensus on fixed points.

2. Parties should commit to laying the foundations of stability; safeguarding public order; preventing violence and the country's descent into strife; and intensifying the search for the political means to secure those objectives.

3. Citizens of all allegiances should be urged to cherish the conviction that any resort to weapons and violence, whatever the fears and tensions, is inevitably a blow and a loss for all parties; it endangers the people's livelihoods, their future and the future of the next generations.

4. Action should be taken to strengthen State institutions, encourage a culture of reliance on the law and legitimate institutions for the resolution of any contention or urgent issue.

5. Because the Army upholds civil peace and embodies national unity, it deserves moral and material support. Efforts should be made to enable it and the other legitimate security forces to respond to urgent security situations according to a deployment plan aimed at imposing State authority, security and stability.

6. The judicial power also deserved support in imposing the law with justice and without discrimination.

7. The implementation of a socioeconomic development plan throughout Lebanon should be encouraged.

8. All political forces and intellectuals and opinion leaders should be encouraged to avoid inflammatory political and media discourse and anything that could spark conflict, disturbances, sectarian confessional strife. That approach would consolidate national unity and promote internal cohesion in confronting external threats, particularly that posed by the Israeli enemy. Such action would have positive implications for public opinion, the economy, tourism and the social situation.

9. It is important to reaffirm the need to comply with the code of honour previously formulated by the National Dialogue Committee with a view to ensuring restraint in political and media discourse, contributing to the creation of a serene environment and making Lebanon a centre for the dialogue of civilizations, religions and cultures.

10. Trust in coexistence and in Lebanon as the unequivocal homeland should be reaffirmed, as should the need to comply with the principles contained in the Preamble to the Constitution, which are fixed founding principles.

11. The Taif accords must be respected, and parties must continue to implement all of its provisions.

12. Lebanon should eschew block politics and regional and international conflicts. It should seek to avoid the negative repercussions of regional tensions and crises in order to preserve its own paramount interest, national unity and civil peace, except where the matter concerns resolutions of international legitimacy, Arab consensus or the rightful Palestinian cause, including the right of Palestinian refugees return to their land and homes rather than being integrated.

13. Measures should then be taken to control the situation on the Lebanese-Syrian border. The establishment of a buffer zone in Lebanon should not be permitted. The country cannot be used as a base, corridor or starting point to smuggle weapons and combatants. At the same time, the right to humanitarian solidarity and political and media expression is guaranteed under the Constitution and the law.

14. International resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), should be respected.

15. It is important to continue examining ways to put in place strategies to implement the resolutions agreed by the National Dialogue Committee.

16. The next session of the Committee will take place on Monday, 25 June 2012 at 11 a.m. The Committee will resume consideration of its agenda, particularly the national defence strategy.

17. This statement shall be termed "the Baabda Declaration" and shall be respected by all parties. Copies shall be transmitted to the League of Arab States and the United Nations.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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18 June 2012

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General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 34
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Letter dated 13 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 13 June 2012, concerning the shelling of civilians under siege in the city of Homs, and upon the instructions of my Government, I write to request, through you, that the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on Syria use his good offices with countries that have influence on the Syrian regime to urge them to exert pressure on the regime to comply with its commitments under the six-point plan, in particular to immediately stop the use of heavy weapons in Homs.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Meshal Hamad M. **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-37896 (E) 190612

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United Nations A/66/851

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 June 2012

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 76
Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 15 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith a document (see annex) recording the position of the Republic of Cyprus regarding the granting of exploration licences to the Turkish Petroleum Corporation by the Turkish Council of Ministers in sea areas in the Eastern Mediterranean, some of which fall either partly or wholly within the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus.

I should be most grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 76.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**
Permanent Representative

12-38225 (E) 210612

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Annex to the letter dated 15 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 27 April 2012, the Government of the Republic of Turkey published in its Official Gazette (Issue: 28276), Decisions 2012/2802, 2012/2973 and 2012/2968, on the basis of which the Turkish Council of Ministers grants hydrocarbon exploration licences to the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) in sea areas of the Eastern Mediterranean, some of which fall either partly or wholly within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus.

More specifically, Decision 2012/2802 concerns the issuance of a licence in "block 5011", which partly lies (more than 40 per cent) within the EEZ and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus; Decision 2012/2973 concerns the issuance of a licence in "block 5029", which partly lies (more than 60 per cent) within the EEZ and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus; and Decision 2012/2968 concerns the issuance of a licence in "block 5027", which lies in its entirety (100 per cent) within the EEZ and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus and "block 5028", which partly lies (more than 90 per cent) within the EEZ and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus.

Concerning the above-mentioned acts of the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus wishes to make the following observations and state its position.

- It is recalled that in 2004, the Republic of Cyprus proclaimed by Law No. 64 (I) 2004, which was submitted to the United Nations, its EEZ, the outer limit of which does not extend beyond the 200 nautical miles from the baselines, as established by the Republic of Cyprus in 1993 and formally submitted to the United Nations in compliance with the deposit obligations pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), from which the breadth of its territorial sea is measured. In accordance with the said Law, in those parts of the maritime boundaries of Cyprus where no delimitation agreements have been signed, including with the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Cyprus considers, in principle, as the outer limit of its EEZ/continental shelf, the median-line, which is measured from the baselines from which the breadth of their respective territorial seas is measured.

- Articles 74 (1) and 83 (1) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provide, respectively, that the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts should be effected by agreement on the basis of international law, as referred to in Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve an equitable solution. Accordingly, the Republic of Cyprus has so far concluded Agreements on the delimitation of its EEZ with the Arab Republic of Egypt (in force), the Lebanese Republic (ratification pending) and the State of Israel (in force), on the basis of the median-line principle. It is noted that the Republic of Cyprus has deposited to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations the lists of geographical coordinates of points that define the exact limits of the EEZ within the context of its delimitation Agreements which are in force.

- Based on the proclamation of the EEZ and the relevant delimitation agreements signed with three of its neighbouring countries, the Republic of Cyprus exercises exclusive sovereign rights and jurisdiction in relation to areas beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea for the purposes set out in article 56 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (which also reflects customary international law). In addition, the Republic of Cyprus has, as a matter of international law, inherent and exclusive sovereign rights over the continental shelf covering the same area, which it exercises in conformity with article 77 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In particular, in relation to hydrocarbon resources, the Republic of Cyprus has exclusive sovereign rights, inter alia, for the purpose of exploration and exploitation in its proclaimed EEZ and over its continental shelf.

- Turkey has neither proclaimed an EEZ nor has it concluded any agreements delimitating its EEZ or continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean. In particular, Turkey has not even pursued an agreement on the delimitation of its maritime boundaries with Cyprus. To the contrary, Turkey performs unilateral actions in respect of sea areas that are patently beyond any reasonable geographical limits of its own continental shelf and potential EEZ and clearly falling within the EEZ and continental shelf of the Republic of Cyprus.

Consequently, the granting of hydrocarbon exploration licences by the Government of the Republic of Turkey to the TPAO in the said sea areas, which is the concrete expression of unreasonable claims by Turkey with respect to its maritime boundaries with the Republic of Cyprus, constitutes a violation of international law and a purported exercise of rights vested in the Republic of Cyprus.

The said actions by Turkey are in absolute defiance of the sovereign rights and jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus in its EEZ and over its continental shelf, as these are enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the relevant customary international law, and Cypriot domestic law. Hence, the granting of hydrocarbon exploration licences by Turkey to the TPAO in the said sea areas is without legal effect and does not prejudice these rights in any way.